

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Block Island School
July 15, 2013
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, July 15, 2013, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, Ann Hall, William Padien, and Christopher Willi. Robert Hicks was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Hall, Doyle) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 17, 2013, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

The unaudited financial report through June 30, 2013, was submitted for review. Mr. Hicks stated that a couple of changes were made since the report was completed last week and about \$30,000 will be put into reserves. The salary line is over, but the coaches' line is under. This does not change the budget's bottom line. A motion (Padien, Connor) to accept the unaudited finance report through June 30, 2013, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

The auditor's final report of our compliance with the state's uniform accounting system was submitted for review. The only noted exception was listed under procedure #1 and included because our seventh grade is elementary, not secondary, and UCOA has no accommodating provision for this. All other procedures were fine.

Mr. Hicks submitted a memo on school ranking and reported that Block Island School was, once again, listed as a commended school. Overall scores to be commended must be over 76 and ours was 85.95. Mr. Hicks stated that it is always nice to do well and the faculty and students deserve credit.

Over the course of the past year our teachers have worked with colleagues from other districts with whom we built the common core mathematics curriculum in developing assessments. A state grant supported a meeting with a consultant to review, upgrade, and share their work. Kristine Monje submitted and explained a sample 4th grade math problem as revamped by the Common Core State Standards. Once the curriculum was rewritten it was necessary to know if the assessments were rigorous enough and aligned. Mrs. Monje also submitted a sample page from the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics showing the different practice standards, such as make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others, and attend to precision.

Mr. Hicks reported that the Technology Committee met in June to review our status, plan for summer work, and review long-term goals. We are trying to get technology into the hands of our students in preparation for the PARCC assessments (computerized), update our technology

infrastructure to make management and maintenance easier, and become cost efficient. Vendors, chosen by the state, will visit the school to view our network infrastructure as part of the educational technology bond issue to improve our wireless capabilities. We will collaborate with North Kingstown on the choice of vendor so they will not have to learn two different systems. Mr. Hicks explained that our biggest limitation is bandwidth to the island and will continue to be a drawback until the capacity restriction is remedied. Other planning highlights included: replacing our oldest computers in the media center and elementary classrooms with Windows based n-computing, which allows one processing unit to run up to 30 workstations; installing uninterruptible power supply to our servers; installing interactive projectors with document cameras in rooms without interactive boards; and expanding Aspen into the middle and elementary grades next year.

Mr. Hicks reported that the overall attendance for the 2012-13 school year was slightly lower than the previous year. The new schedule did not affect attendance and most of the complaints from earlier in the school year died away.

Old Business

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve Policy FBF: Graduation Requirements as posted carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the 2014-2015 school calendar as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

New Business

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Marsha Gutierrez as the district's School Committee clerk for the 2013-2014 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Chris O'Neill as the district's Attendance Officer for the 2013-2014 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of the firm of Asquith & Mahoney, LLP to provide legal services to the district on an as needed basis for the 2013-2014 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of the physician representative(s) of the Block Island Health Services as the school physician(s) for the 2013-2014 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of the dentist representative(s) of the Block Island Health Services as the school dentist(s) for the 2013-2014 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to appoint William Padien as the delegate to the Rhode Island Association of School Committees for the 2013-2014 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Doyle) to approve the designation of Bank of American and Washington Trust Company as official bank depositories carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the designation of the Block Island Times for any required advertising carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Doyle) to approve the designation of Chairperson and Secretary as authorized signatories of checks for all accounts carried with a vote of 5-0.

Policy BAK: Policy Adoption and Amendment requires the School Committee to conduct a review of policy at least once per year. It was suggested that committee members review the policies and notify Mr. Hicks if any need to be amended or updated. All policies are available on the school's website (blockislandschool.net) under documents.

Correspondence was submitted from Stacy Henshaw requesting an extended maternity leave from the beginning of school through the end of December 2013 so she can care for her new-born son. A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve Mrs. Henshaw's request for an extended maternity leave through the end of December 2013 carried with a vote of 5-0.

A request was received from Kristin Baumann to home school her son, James Arnott, from September 9 through September 17 while on an extended family vacation. A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve Kristin Baumann's request to home school her son from September 9-17, 2013, carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of David Prior as the secondary social studies teacher carried with a vote of 5-0. Mr. Hicks is waiting for documentation verifying Mr. Prior's experience before placing him on a particular salary step.

Four companies requested information and bid specifications for the lift replacement, but the only bid was submitted by Buckley Elevators in the amount of \$31,600. This was much more than planned and Mr. Hicks is working with Architect Mark Saccoccio to find a less costly way to get the installation done. It was recommended that the committee reject the bid. A motion (Padien, Connor) to reject the bid received from Buckley Elevator carried with a vote of 5-0.

Calendar of Events

The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Monday, August 19, 2013.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 8:10 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: August 19, 2013